Statement

(i) Bangalore-Mysore Line
(ii) Kangra Valley Railway (NR)
(iii) Delhi-Ambala-Nangaldam with extension to Una and beyond upto Amb and Mukerian on the completion of the Railway Line
(iv) Jalandhar-Pathankot-Jammu (with extension upto Udhampur on completion of Railway Line.
(v) Jalandhar-Hoshiarpur
(vi) Rewari-Bhatinda
(vii) Jalandhar-Ferozpur via Kapurthala
(viii) Ludhiana-Ferozpur via Moga
(ix) Ludhiana-Hissar
(x) Kalka-Shimla (Narrow Gauge)
(xi) Bhopal-Nizamuddin (MP-32)
(xii) Howrah-Gaya (C-28)
(xiii) Guwahati-Dibrugarh-Tinsukia

Examination of Receipts by Postal Superintendents

1718. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) how many senior Superintendents personally examined receipts etc. as envisaged in para 8, 9 and 10 of the Circular dated 27th February, 1991 in RMS Division in Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar Circles;

(b) whether it is a fact that mails received from Delhi, Madhya Pradesh and RMS Divisions in Uttar Pradesh, contain dumped mails as received in RMS Divisions in Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Kerala Postal Circles; and

(c) if so, what action has since been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) All Senior Superintendents of RMS in Maharashtra, U.P. and Bihar Circles have personally examined receipts etc. as envisaged in the Circular cited and other instructions of the Department. In the event of receipt of reports of dumping of mails against a particular set, the matter is taken up with the concerned Circle office/ Regional office for strengthening supervision.

(b) and (c) There is no instance of persistent dumping by the Circles like Delhi, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. However, certain lapses take place for which corrective measures are taken. Whenever such lapses are reported, concerned officers are alerted to strengthen supervision and monitoring.

Illegible Postal Stamps

1719. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Postal Marks are legible and in cases where they are illegible what remedial action is taken to get legible Postal Marks;

(b) whether it is a fact that in large number of letters and Post Cards (40% of them) the stamps are not defaced; what is the extent of such letters; whether it is also a fact that taking advantage of this position used stamps are reused on a mass scale in Metropolitan Cities like Bombay; and

(c) whether it is a fact that 40% of the letters do not have the delivery stamps, indicating the date and time and in cases where there is a delivery stamp it is not legible in a number of cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Postal Marks are generally legible. Providing clear and legible Postal Marks is a continuous endeavour on the part of Department of Post, which is done through regular cleaning and maintenance of the stamps and regular monitoring. In order to improve the quality of hand cancellers, production of hand cancellers through advanced mechanised process is being done by

units under the Ordnance Factory Board. More than 18,000 specially prepared hand cancellers have already been supplied and efforts are continuously being made for providing more such improved and efficient hand cancellers. In bigger post offices, electrically-operated stamp cancelling machines are used. Franking machines have also been provided in main post offices to ensure clear and legible Postal marks for levying postage. At present, 37000 such franking machines are being used in post offices.

(b) and (c) Due to various factors like seasonal unusually heavy increase in letters posted, slackness on the part of the staff entrusted with this responsibility etc., and number of articles remain unstamped at the posting and delivery point. However, no precise data is available regarding the number of such letters. There is no evidence to indicate any large scale reuse of postage stamps which escape cancellation at the office of posting.

Supply of Canvass Bags

1720. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the requirement of each Postal Circle in relation to canvass bags every year and what is the cost of one canvass bag;

(b) whether the necessary supply of canvass bags was done in time to each Circle in 1992, 1993 and 1994; if so, how many canvass bags were supplied to each Postal Circle in the same period;

(c) whether Maharashtra Postal Circle has tallied its bag account for the year 1992, 1993, and 1994 with other Circles; if not, what are the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Rakhi and Tilgul packets remained in the Mail Offices in Maharashtra for one to two weeks in 1994 due to non-availability of canvass bags; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Requirement of jute canvass bags of each Postal Circle for the year 1992, 1993 and 1994 is placed at Statement-I (*see* below). There are four types of jute canvass bags. The cost of each type of canvass bag at the last procurement year 1993-94 is as under:—

C-I	— Rs. 60.19 (1994)
C-III	— Rs. 36.22 (1994)
C-IV	— Rs. 35.17 (1994)
C-V	— Rs. 12.29 (1993)

(b) Yes, Sir except in 1994. Details are at statement-II (*see* below). 1994 supply was continued in 1995, details of which are at statement-III (*see* below).

(c) Maharashtra Circle has tallied the bag account for the year 1992, 1993 and 1994, under usual adjustments.

(d) and (e) No, Sir.